



Consumer Federation of America

Carol Tucker Foreman
Distinguished Fellow and
Director
The Food Policy Institute

Biographical Data

Carol Tucker Foreman

Carol Tucker Foreman, distinguished fellow and director of Consumer Federation of America's Food Policy Institute, has had a major impact on diet and health in the United States over the last 25 years. Foreman, who served as CFA's executive director from 1973-77, returned to the organization in March 1999 after two decades in government service and as founder and president of a prominent women owned Washington, D.C. consulting firm.

CFA is the nation's largest consumer advocacy organization. With Foreman's return, the April 1999 merger of CFA with the advocacy organization, Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, and the creation of the Food Policy Institute, CFA has launched a new era in food policy activism.

Foreman served as assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services, 1977-1981. She directed the effort to develop and publish the first U.S. government "Dietary Guidelines for Americans." Foreman also had responsibility for the nation's food assistance programs, food stamps, school lunch and the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Feeding Program (WIC) as well as meat, poultry and egg inspection and the food grading system. Her tenure at USDA was marked by major expansion of the newly established WIC program, and major reforms in both food stamps and meat and poultry inspection. In 1991, the Center for Science in the Public Interest named Foreman to the "Nutrition Action Hall of Fame" for developing the first "Dietary Guidelines for Americans."

In 1986, Foreman launched a major campaign to institute National Academy of Sciences recommendations for a completely new approach to the nation's archaic meat and poultry inspection system. She founded the Safe Food Coalition, a group composed of food-borne illness victims, and consumer, public health and trade union organizations. In 1995, after a decade of pressure from the Coalition, the USDA dropped its hundred-year-old "sniff and poke" approach to inspection in favor of one designed to protect human health by limiting microbial

contamination in raw meat and poultry. In recognition of Foreman's work in improving food safety, the National Consumers League honored her with the organization's 1997 "Trumpeter" award.

From 1981-1999, Foreman was president and cofounder of Foreman Heldepriem & Mager, Inc., and represented a diverse roster of clients including Fortune 500 companies, advocacy groups and other nonprofit corporations, trade associations, and trade unions.

She is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection; the USDA's Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology; and the Partnership for Food Safety Education, a cooperative public-private effort to further reduce food-borne illness. She is a director of the anti-hunger advocacy organizations Bread for The World and the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). From 1993-98, she was the chair of FRAC's board. She was a director of the consumer advocacy organization, Public Voice for Food and Health Policy. From 1977-81, she was a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation and from 1978-81 a director of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Carol Tucker Foreman graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, and attended the Graduate School of Government and Public Administration of The American University, Washington, D.C.